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Repression Monitoring Group
BULLETIN 21: MAY 16 - 31 1991

DEATHS - NATAL COASTAL REGION			
<u>NORTH</u>	11	<u>SOUTH</u>	26
KwaMashu	2	Malukazi	1
Isithebe	1	Port Shepstone total	25
Mandeni	3	Bhobhoyi	2
Ndwedwe	1	Betonia	3
Ngwelezane	3	Gamalakhe	4
Obanjeni	1	Kwenkulu	2
		Mqolomeni	4
		Murchison	7
		Qinabout	3
TOTAL (MAY 16 - 31): 37			
* TOTAL MAY: 64			

* See Bulletin 20 for a breakdown of figures and trends for May 1 - 15.

Focus on Port Shepstone

- Violence continued to wrack the Port Shepstone area in the second half of May, despite several rounds of peace meetings between ANC and IFP representatives and tribal authorities.

Threats of evictions

- At a meeting convened by indunas on May 19 in Bhobhoyi it was announced that all people renting rooms must leave the area by June 1. It was also announced that girls must not braid their hair or have perms, and all boys failing to carry a sharpened stick would be targeted as ANC members.
- Following this meeting, two people were sjambokked for refusing to be evicted, and many lodgers fled the area in fear.
- On May 26, a community meeting was called by the District Magistrate. He announced that there are no legally legitimate indunas operating in the area. He said that since 1989, no tribal authority has been appointed in the area.
- Only chief Momo Ndwelane - recently released from prison for possession of firearms - was recognised as a legitimate tribal authority.

Intimidation

- There have been many reports of intimidation and forced recruitment by alleged IFP members.
- On May 27 three ANC-supporting youths were abducted from a home at 4.30am by SADF personnel and taken to Mavundla's kraal. There they were hung by their necks and beaten, while being asked where the 'comrades' are hiding the AK47 rifles. They were released after several hours.
- There have been at least three reported cases of boys being abducted by balaclava-clad attackers. Families have been warned to 'stop hiding' their sons, and threatened with death if they report the abductions or warnings to anyone.
- More than 400 refugees still remain in several church halls in Gamalakhe township.

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Focus on North Coast

- Although the death toll in recent months has been relatively low, accounts of harrassment and intimidation in various areas in the North Coast have been frequent.
- The area of Nyembe has been ravaged by violence that began as a faction fight about two months ago. During the fighting the Amakengane ward was labelled as an ANC stronghold, and it is alleged that the ZP assisted in burning 180 homesteads in the area. The ward is now largely deserted.
- Chief Mathonsi of Sundumbili location allegedly demanded R60 from residents in his area for transport costs for the Johannesburg Inkatha rally on May 26.
- In fear of an attack, organisers from Mandeni decided to hold their ANC branch launch outside the township at the Tugela Hotel. However, vigilantes led by well-known Inkatha members arrived, armed with 9mm weapons, and insulted the ANC leadership. When police arrived, the guns were confiscated and nobody was arrested.
- In Ngwelezane, there have been repeated reports of intimidation by alleged Inkatha members armed with traditional weapons threatening to kill 'comrades' in town.

Weapons

- As many as 400 'factory-made' spears were found on a Transvaal-bound bus in Northern Natal.
- Numerous reports of open display of dangerous weapons, such as battle axes, suggest that the ban on most dangerous weapons has yet to be enforced.

Hostels

- The KwaMashu hostels have remained quiet since the assassination of SJ Hlela in mid-April.
- However, after the May 5 Inkatha rally, at least one person was killed on a KwaMashu-bound train by a group of men armed with traditional weapons, allegedly coming from the Inkatha rally.
- The South African Hostel Dwellers Association was launched in Umlazi on May 19, and was addressed by many local Inkatha leaders. Following the launch, several people were assaulted at the Glebe hostels and 4 men were abducted at 'spear-point' on a KwaMashu-bound train.

Courts

- No killings by people's courts were recorded this month.
- KwaZulu Deputy Minister of Interior Samuel Bhekizizwe Jamile was found guilty on one count of murder and one of attempted murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was found not guilty on the other 13 charges laid against him. His co-accused, Mzizi Hlophe, was found guilty of 2 counts of murder and sentenced to 22 years.
- The striking contrast in media attention between the Jamile trial and the recent Winnie Mandela trial must be noted.
- Media coverage of the Jamile trial in the English language press only began about one week prior to the judgement. The sensationalist style of coverage portrayed Mandela's charges as far more gruesome, corrupt and scandalous than Jamile's, despite the fact that he was accused of 15 murder-related charges while holding an officially appointed position in the KwaZulu government. Mandela was found guilty of assault and abduction, when her involvement in politics was through no election or appointment.

This bulletin is a compilation of information from press clippings from 6 Natal newspapers, reports from 5 unrest monitors in Natal, police unrest reports and follow-ups with journalists, lawyers, and residents of the affected communities.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or are seeking more information, please contact: Repression Monitoring Group, Black Sash, 27 Ecumenical Centre, 20 St. Andrew's Street, Durban 4001, Tel (031) 3055730, Fax (031) 3016611.

